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## IF sponsors Digital Forensics Research Workshop

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate conducted the Digital Forensic Research Workshop (DFRWS) 2002 Aug. 7-9 at Syracuse University. It was the second in an on-going series of annual workshops to define, focus, and clarify research activities needed to enhance the evolving field of digital forensics.

Approximately 100 participants from government, academia, law enforcement and industry included representatives from Australia, Canada, Italy, Scotland and the United States. Dr. Penrose Albright, senior director for research and development at the White House Office of Homeland Security (OHS), provided a keynote address that detailed OHS plans to build a research laboratory drawn from national laboratories to address future homeland security technology needs. He also commended the workshop's ground rules that called for forensic research that was scientifically based and unconstrained by current practices, policies and laws.

A total of 12 workshop sessions covered topics such as challenges to defeat encryption, the role of accurate time-stamping in a digital environment, attack attribution in a source-based network routing environment, use of styleometry as a tool to eliminate suspect pools, and practical approaches to recovering digital evidence.

"The workshop produced a list of technical and policy challenges that impede progress toward forensic capabilities," said Chet Maciag of the directorate's Defensive Information Warfare Branch. "Participants also identified approaches and solutions that may be realizable in the next one to three years — as well as approaches and solutions that may have a greater pay-off, but may not be realized for the next four to ten years."

Based on the success of this year's workshop, a number of organizations have already volunteered to co-sponsor the DFRWS 2003. The DFRWS 2002 Final Report will be available around Oct. 15, and can be obtained at <http://www.dfrws.org>.  
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